



## **Progress and Activity Report - Georgia Safe Routes to School: Task Order 9 December 2012**

This Progress Report reflects the sixth invoice for Task 10 for activities ending December 31<sup>st</sup>. Through this billing period, the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center project team continued to provide services and outreach for schools and community stakeholders throughout the state.

### **School Outreach Coordinator Highlights**

Highlights from around the state include:

#### **McLendon Elementary School, New Partner (DeKalb County)**

SOC Nykia partnered with the DeKalb County Board of Health (BOH) to provide a "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" (CPPW) Grant to McLendon Elementary School. Nykia met with BOH partners and the school's principal and champion to conduct a walkability assessment. The team discussed areas of concern, opportunities for program development, and action steps for kicking off the program in Spring 2013. In addition to participating in Georgia Walk to School Day, McLendon's Champion expressed interest in providing a May Bicycle Rodeo and building the program to include weekly Walking Wednesdays. Nykia will meet with the team again in January to begin planning Georgia Walk to School Day activities and develop a calendar for McLendon's SRTS program.

#### **Decatur Champion's Meeting (DeKalb County)**

The City of Decatur Safe Routes to School Programs are continuing to grow. December's monthly meeting of Decatur Champions and community stakeholders highlighted on-going and new activities including completion of student travel tallies for all City of Decatur Schools, and plans to improve connectivity to Oakhurst Elementary School with trails. Nykia met with school champions, Decatur Active Living, City Schools of Decatur Superintendent, a Decatur Crossing Guard and school bus driver to discuss recent activities and tentative plans for the spring. Glennwood Academy's Champions were inspired by Clairemont Elementary's push to walk to school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They have taken on efforts to increase walking to Glennwood from a nearby housing authority. Decatur area volunteers have truly stepped up to lead weekly walking school buses, with volunteers from Decatur High School Key Club members. Participation has grown to include up to 15 students that participate each walking Wednesday. In the spring, champions will work toward increasing to two walk days per week. Additionally, 30 students from Renfro Middle School participated in a bicycle ride from Decatur to Stone Mountain. A local bike shop owner provided bike maintenance prior to the ride and students enjoyed lunch and recreational time in the park. This is part of the City of Decatur Active Living and Renfro's combined efforts to encourage more youth bicycling. Renfro has seen the bike racks filled to capacity since joining SRTS, and Nykia is working with the school Champion to continue to support walking and biking activities.

### **Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association Meeting (City of Atlanta)**

SOC Nykia has been working with the Pittsburgh community to build Safe Routes to School programs in three schools. Program development has been delayed due to changes in administration and planned school closings. However, the community is ready to kick-off the program this spring. Nykia met with the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, Morehouse School of Medicine, and SRTS National Partnership to discuss opportunities for SRTS in Pittsburgh. Georgia Walk-to-School Day was identified as an ideal kick-off date. Each meeting participant was given an action step in preparation for March 6<sup>th</sup>. Unique programs will be implemented at each school. For example, Parks Middle School is slated to close in 2013, however a small group of students will be identified to utilize the new Resource Center Middle School Walk Audit Toolkit as part of a community planning program offered through Morehouse School of Medicine. Nykia will meet with the team again in January to follow up on action items and continue planning for Georgia Walk to School Day.

### **City of Danielsville**

Alicia met with representatives from the City of Danielsville and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Following a meeting in September, John Devine of the Regional Commission developed plans for infrastructure improvements for the shared campus of Danielsville Middle and Elementary with connections to downtown Danielsville and several neighborhoods. The plans included a walking and bicycling path to the school as well as sidewalks and crosswalks. No funding has been secured for the infrastructure improvements, but the schools plan to focus on encouragement and education in the meantime and will work with the Resource Center. The schools plan to participate in Georgia Walk to School Day in March, and Danielsville Elementary will implement pedestrian safety education in the spring.

### **Safe Kids Cobb County, Friend (Cobb County)**

Safe Kids Cobb County held their final meeting of the year, and Alicia attended. Alicia had an opportunity to share updates with the group and talk about SRTS activities of her schools in Cobb County. She also met the newest member of Safe Kids Cobb County. Safe Kids Cobb County will help a few schools with their plans for Georgia Walk to School Day in March and National Bike to School Day in May, as well as several bike rodeos planned for the spring.

### **Safe Kids Savannah, Friend (Chatham County)**

On Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Patti attended the monthly meeting of the Savannah Safe Kids Coalition at the Lake Mayer Community Center in Chatham County. Patti continues to serve as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee chairperson. In attendance were representatives of various stakeholders including Chatham County Recreation Department, Savannah Chatham Police, and University of Georgia Extension Agency. At the meeting, Patti recapped International Walk to School Day events and asked attendees to mark their calendars for Georgia Walk to School Day in March. Additionally, the Coalition is planning to co-host (with the Recreation Department) a Kids Triathlon in the fall. The event will include swimming, running, and cycling. Patti volunteered to support the bicycle component.

### **Liberty Elementary, Silver Partner (Liberty County)**

The Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) reached out to Patti during December to continue work on the Midway Schools Travel Plan that was started and almost complete during the 2011-2012 school year. Liberty Elementary and Midway Middle were the focus of the plan that was put on hold when the CRC was forced to downsize last spring. The CRC was able to bring a planner back to the project, and Patti is helping to coordinate with the schools and city of Midway stakeholders. The plan should be complete in early 2013.

#### **SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group and Outreach Staff)**

**Website, Hotline, and Social Media:** The website was updated in mid-December. The new Middle School Walk Audit Toolkit was added to the website. It was uploaded to the Tips and Tools section and an announcement was included on the homepage of the website.

The Hotline received one call that was directed to Alicia during December.

The Resource Center's Facebook page encourages followers to visit the program's website as well as other relevant SRTS webpages and information.

#### **Looking Ahead**

While the current contract ends May 31, 2013, Task Order 9's Outreach budget will be expended on or around December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Resource Center will continue to maintain the website and hotline under Task Order 9.

**Comment [PS1]:** Should we include content here to point this out? Would it be helpful or more of a problem?